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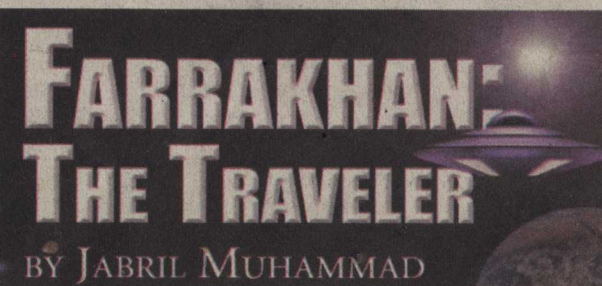
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The courage to face the greatest disinformation campaign



[Editor's Note: This article is a reprint that was published online on July 17, 2004; and The Final Call will continue to publish articles by our beloved brother and friend, Minister Jabril Muhammad.]

This article was written immediately after the last one, which was written earlier today (June 13th) and after the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan delivered Part II of The Guide and the Guidance.

Let me explain. I was very enthused. But I was also sad because of the many who partly heard him or didn't hear him at all. His ending contained a very serious warning and he seemed to be ending a critical series of speeches that began with his Saviours' Day speech in February. I thought of others who may never hear this critical talk (and those leading to this one).

Urge all to get and listen to these critical series of speeches of Minister Farrakhan as fast as possible.

After I "finished" both articles, I felt that since they won't appear, until weeks after today's speech, Allah willing, they may help some get the tape or others may carefully re-listen to it.

By the way, there's much talk of Alzheimer's disease but not much of its connection with aluminum and its relation to the problem of forgetfulness. Why?

In making an excellent point in his speech today, Minister Farrakhan cited an experience I had on an airplane about five or six years ago.

I had another similar experience in a public place about four months ago. I was in a long line of customers. I was reading a book. There was a White woman who was about five customers ahead of me. I noticed that she kept turning her neck around looking in my direction. The line was moving slowly. I kept reading.

Finally, she got out of the line and took a few steps toward me. She asked, "What are you reading?" I turned the book up so that she could see the front cover. Her face began to turn red as a beet. She abruptly turned around and got back in her place in line. She said nothing more to me. I said nothing at all.

The book's title was Rogue Nation. Between the two words composing the book's title, is the American flag shaped according to the boundaries of the United States.

At the top in much smaller print is: American Unilateralism and the Failure of Good Intentions. At the bottom in small print, with reference to the author, are the words, Author of Trading Places. In somewhat larger words is the author's name, Clyde Prestowitz.

There is smaller print on the back cover of the book on which was written advance praised for this book. Among the "big" names of those who praise this book and urge others—especially those in power—to read it are: Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Adviser and Peter Sutherland, Chairman of Goldman Sachs International, former Director General, World Trade Organization.

On the inside back flap are these words by David Gergen, Director of the Center for Public Leadership, Harvard University, Former White House advisor to presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Clinton. He wrote: "This is a brave book that should be read by all who care about America's success. A man of impeccable conservative credentials, Clyde Prestowitz directly challenges a new orthodoxy on the right—which the U. S. should aggressively pursue its own interests regardless to what others may think. No one writes with more authority and love of country." (Emphasis his.)

Three paragraphs down, on the inside flap of its paper cover, are these words: "Rogue Nation is not an argument against American dominance or the exercise of American power. It's an argument against stupidity, arrogance and ignorance in the exercise of power."

Even though I had only read the words of a few others, as mentioned above, the publisher's words on the inside cover flaps and a few pages of his book, it was clear to me that Clyde Prestowitz is an above average intelligent "conservative" White man, who loves America and is doing what he can to warn her.

I don't know if Prestowitz is among the growing number of Caucasians who know, to an above average degree, the extraordinary value of Minister Farrakhan's advice to President Bush. Many have known that the Minister is right, but fear to say this publicly, due to fear of being caught up in the most massive disinformation ever waged in history. But an increasing number of Caucasians are publicly agreeing with him—directly and indirectly. Blacks are witnessing this.

David Gergen characterized this book as "a brave book" and that its author "directly challenges a new orthodoxy on the right?" (Emphasis his.)

"Brave" in part, means: "having or showing courage, especially when facing danger, difficulty, or pain; to face the onslaught of something unpleasant with courage and resolution."

Who did Mr. Prestowitz identify as the "new or-

thodoxy on the right" whose presence, work and power is such that they should be challenged and that to do so, bravery is required? Rather than assume, I stopped typing and read beyond page seven (where I had stopped reading) of Mr. Prestowitz's book.

On page 277, for instance, he points out clearly that the "new orthodoxy on the right" whom he challenged are, broadly speaking, the same group whom Minister Farrakhan has "called out." But there are significant differences in their knowledge.

On this critical and complicated subject, Mr. Prestowitz's knowledge is wide-ranging and comprehensive. He wrote that he interviewed many, read widely and has had broad experience. His solutions, however, won't solve America's problems. He did not deal with the root cause of America's problems—the position and condition of America's Black people.

Minister Farrakhan's knowledge, on this same complex subject, is divine. Furthermore, he unflinchingly makes clear and unhesitatingly states that the source of his special knowledge is his teacher, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. He knows the solution to America's problems.

The context of Mr. Gergen's use of the word "brave" reminds me of Minister Farrakhan's bravery or courage, in the face of his being the target of the greatest and the most massive and sustained disinformation campaign ever launched against any one Black man in America's history—or anywhere—which thoroughly involves the most powerful government of the past 6,000 years. This year marks the nineteenth consecutive year of a major aspect of this campaign against Minister Farrakhan.

Of course, this campaign is part of the same that has been directed against the Honorable Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam since the early 1930s—from within and without.

What makes this the greatest disinformation campaign ever is that it's knowingly designed to defeat the aims and purposes of the Supreme Being. Not all involved in it, however, are aware of its full scope, not to think of its ultimate defeat and destruction.

Of this evil campaign, the Holy Qur'an states "They desire to put out the light of Allah with their mouths, and Allah will allow nothing save the perfection of His light ..." (9:32)

Now, what do the following words mean? "... Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book, it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." (Psalms 40:8)

How was God's law written "within" his heart? When? Who is speaking here? How do you know? If you have an answer, how do you verify it?

More next issue, Allah willing.

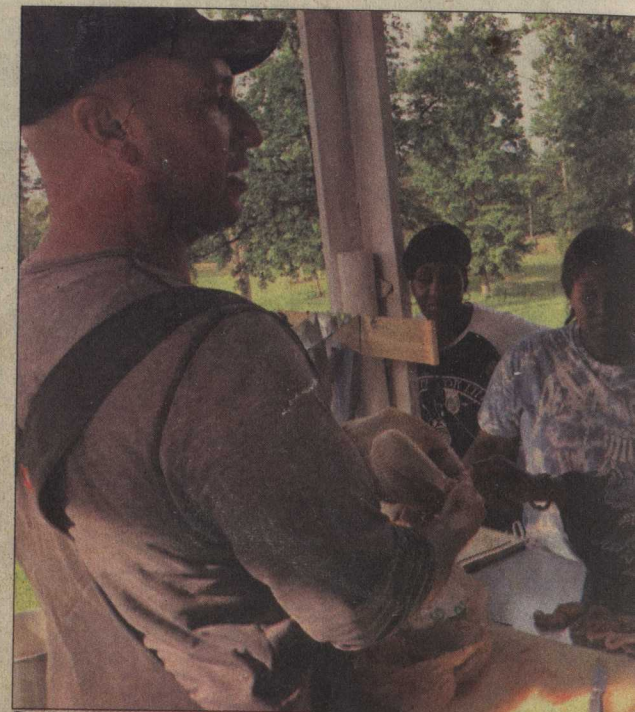
Self-sufficiency

Continued from page 11

of them instead of plastic containers or other containers that cost a little bit more. But grow bags are a big thing that people use and can be changed and altered in the house, outside of the house," she said. "You can use a certain part of your home. You can have an herb garden just right on the ledge of your window."

And if the neighbors also get involved in growing, she said, then Black people would be able to trade amongst one another in their own community.

"We don't have to grow all the things. We could just provide some of the things. If you get really good with your tomatoes and peppers, then I've got your garlic and I have your broccoli," she said. "We have to start thinking that way. Allah (God) does promise us gardens, but not for this world. We have to create our own."



Brother Randy instructs workshop participants on the proper way to use grow bags. Photo courtesy of Randy Muhammad

Report reveals individuals have lost

by Nisa Islam Muhammad

Staff Writer
@nisaislam

Scammers have defrauded individuals globally of an astonishing \$1.03 trillion over the last year. This figure has increased from \$1.026 trillion the previous year, as detailed in the 2024 Global State of Scams report by the Global Anti-Scam Alliance (GASA), in collaboration with Feedzai, a company specializing in fraud management for financial institutions.

According to the report, globally, just 4% of individuals who fall victim to scams manage to reclaim their losses. The U.S. and U.K. had the highest rates of recovery but the report states these figures are still low on a worldwide scale, leaving most scam victims without a solution. This situation underscores the pressing need for enhanced consumer protection strategies and more efficient financial recovery systems, the report notes. Additionally, 70 percent of victims choose not to report the scam.

Even with persistent efforts to fight scam activities through awareness initiatives, scams continue to pose a major and increasing threat, with almost half of consumers worldwide encountering a scam attempt at least once a week. Some regions are more severely affected, with countries like Brazil, Hong Kong, and South Korea experiencing nearly daily scam expo-

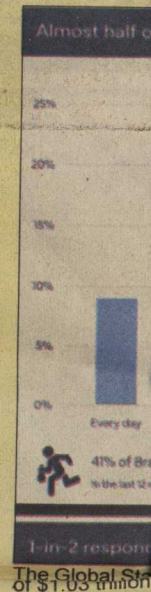
sure. Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, and China reported a significant decrease in scam incidents.

Shopping scams and investment scams were the most prevalent types, the report, released November 2024, noted.

"Phone calls and text/SMS messages remain the primary methods through which scammers operate, with text/SMS scams being particularly common in the Philippines, South Korea, and Brazil. Platforms like WhatsApp, Instagram, and Gmail are also frequently exploited by scammers, with a notable rise in WhatsApp scams across several regions," the report stated.

In the report, Jorij Abraham, managing director of GASA, explained, "Very little has changed in the last 12 months, as the world's consumers bear the weight of another \$1.03 trillion stolen by scammers. We must do more to combat these crimes, as they continue to erode trust in our systems and cause immense harm to individuals and economies."

The financial impact of scams is substantial. The U.S., Denmark, and Switzerland experienced the highest losses per individual, as Americans face an average loss of \$3,520, the report states. Scams in Pakistan had a significantly larger effect, amounting to 4.2% of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Kenya and South Africa reported GDP impacts of 3.6% and 3.4%, respectively. The financial burden that scams place on both individuals and national economies highlights the critical need for improved protections and global collaboration, the



report states. Report also notes that fraud victims receive assistance with the Center (ITR) research efforts to protect them from identity crimes, notes that education, gender, and every business. The most "Report" found better at local level" thanks are facing money misuse w

MAY 26, 2025

"In everything that exists you find a Law working. In everything that exists, you find that the *success* of that creature is due to its *obedience* to The Law under which it is created. ..."

~The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan

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Testament

Continued from page 3

and love of Mother Khadijah, the First Lady of the Nation of Islam. "She is a rock beside Minister Farrakhan, nurturing and guiding our community. Their example encourages us all to embody compassion and commitment in our own lives."

Washington, D.C.'s Sister Brenda Diana Muhammad serves as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Protocol Director for the Nation of Islam, based at Mosque No. 4. She told The Final Call that she has been and still is inspired by Minister Farrakhan's uplifting message for women, a message that led her to volunteer for the Million Man March. "His fidelity to the teachings of Elijah Muhammad is his greatest gift," she said. She also praised Mother Khadijah as an essential role model.

Sister Helen Muhammad, of Houston, credits the Teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad under the leadership, direction and example of Minister Farrakhan with turning her life "from death to life." She notes that critics misunderstand his mission, saying, "He is committed to saving and uplifting people from all backgrounds, not the opposite."

Minister Farrakhan is also a prophetic father figure, especially for those who may have grown up without one, shared Student Southern Regional M.G.T. Captain Dr. Nusaybah Muhammad of Mosque No. 15 in Atlanta. "He makes us fearless, courageous, and united," said Sister Dr. Nusaybah. She also praised the positive transformation of women through the Minister's wisdom and guidance.

Student European Regional Minister Abdul Hakeem Muhammad flew in from the UK for the celebration. He was first introduced to the Teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad through audio cassettes of messages by Minister Farrakhan. He recalled his first time meeting with Minister Farrakhan years ago as "the day I was given life." He expressed confidence that Minister Farrakhan's spiritual legacy will endure for generations, "resurrecting" individuals and communities wherever his name is known.

The celebration drew so many people, each with personal stories of transformation attributed to Minister Farrakhan over his 70 years of service and sacrifice.

Brother Kamal Muhammad is a son of the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad and son-in-law of Minister Farrakhan and Mother Khadijah. He is the husband of their daughter, Sister Fati-



Minister Farrakhan and Mother Khadijah Farrakhan bow their heads in prayer.



Student Supreme Captain Mustapha Farrakhan, son of Min. Farrakhan, on left, looks on as his father speaks.



The 92nd birth anniversary of the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan was held in conjunction with honoring Mother Khadijah Farrakhan on May 11 at The Salaam Restaurant in Chicago.

ma. He spoke of Minister Farrakhan's "timeless" legacy, intertwined with the historic revival and strengthening of the

Nation of Islam. For him also, the Million Man March remains a defining achievement, signaling unity and purpose for fu-

ture generations.

Brother Leonard F. Muhammad is a member of the Nation of Islam Shura Executive Council and a longtime aide of Minister Farrakhan. He praised Minister Farrakhan's unwavering consistency and faith, noting that trips to historic parts of the world, including Mecca, Saudi Arabia, only deepened his commitment to sharing wisdom across faiths.

From groundbreaking public events to quiet moments of personal guidance, Minister Farrakhan's reach has spanned continents and cultures, providing leadership, compassion, and moral clarity for decades.

Those present for this special celebration stood not only to honor a man and his mission but to reaffirm their commitment to helping in his work toward unity, spiritual growth, and uplifting humanity.

At 92, Minister Farrakhan stands as a living testament to the enduring power of faith, resilience, and love. Based on the passionate voices heard at his celebration, the impact of his life's work will echo for generations to come.

"He gave us hope, purpose, and a deeper understanding of Allah (God)," noted Student Minister Jeffrey Muhammad.

Student Eastern Regional Minister Arthur Muhammad from New York's Mosque No. 7 shared that Islam—as taught and modeled by Minister Farrakhan, not only elevates individuals but also brings peace to brotherhoods and families. The devotion and support shown by Mother Khadijah Farrakhan were a recurring theme shared by those who recognized and celebrated her dedication as an example for women seeking to balance faith, family, and community.

Student National Secretary Sa'ad Alim Muhammad, who is also a member of the Shura Executive Council, credited Minister Louis Farrakhan with transforming his life and stated he owes his personal growth and development to Minister Farrakhan's influence since hearing him in 1994. Brother Sa'ad also said Minister Farrakhan's legacy will endure for generations, and he compared the impact of what he teaches from the Most Honorable Elijah Muhammad to light traveling infinitely across the universe, ensuring future generations will know his name and works.

Sister Dr. Safiyya Shabazz of Mosque No. 12 in Philadelphia agreed. "His fearless leadership and unshakable faith have set a standard for all who follow, especially the next generation," she said.



SEN. ALEX PADILLA is removed from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's news conference in L.A.

White House: L.A. raids are sign of what's to come in U.S.

A top Trump aide says operations in 'sanctuary' cities will rise

BY ANDREA CASTILLO

WASHINGTON — When Donald Trump promised on the campaign trail to unleash the largest deportation campaign in U.S. history, he said his second administration would start by going after people with criminal records.

But now, disappointed with the pace of arrests, the

Trump administration is casting a wider net by targeting anyone deportable.

Raids in California have taken place at courthouses, during scheduled check-ins with immigration authorities, at clothing factories, Home Depots, car washes, farms and outside churches. But officials say the state is hardly being singled out. Raids are coming for other "sanctuary" jurisdictions

too, said Tom Homan, President Trump's chief advisor on border policy.

"This operation is not going to end," Homan told The Times.

Across the country, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is stepping up new strategies and tearing down precedent to meet the White House's demands. Homan acknowledged that the pace of deportations had

not met expectations and that although the administration still prioritizes removing those who threaten public safety and national security, anyone in the country illegally is fair game.

"I'm not happy with the numbers," he said. "We need to find these people."

Arrests are being made in places previously considered off limits, and the ad-

[See Homan, A9]

Tensions boil over as senator is tackled, ICE arrests pick up

Federal immigration sweeps spread fear and uncertainty across the region and force workers into hiding.

BY SUMMER LIN, CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN, RACHEL URANGA, HANNAH FRY AND JAMES QUEALLY

Senator was forced to his knees

Democrats decry his detainment as "un-American." NATION, A8

Defense secretary on military in L.A.

He wouldn't say whether he'd obey a ruling against deployment. NATION, A10

Nine car washes are raided

A look at these and other worksites targeted by ICE. BUSINESS, A12

Tensions over President Trump's immigration crackdown boiled over Thursday as Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) was forcibly removed from a Homeland Security news conference and immigration agents swept across the region arresting people suspected of living in the United States illegally.

Outrage over the operations has sparked a week of protests, with California officials going to court in an attempt to roll back Trump's deployment of the National Guard to Los Angeles without the consent of state or local leaders.

Federal officials declined

to say how many were arrested in recent days. But Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said at a news conference Thursday that the department is not limiting its arrests to only those with criminal records. In fact, two-thirds of those taken into custody have no criminal records, according to the White House.

About five minutes into the Noem news conference at the Wilshire Federal [See Raids, A8]

Judge appears to question federal call-up of Guard

California officials say Trump exceeded his authority in sending state's troops without consent of governor.

BY MICHAEL WILNER AND QUEENIE WONG

A federal judge in San Francisco expressed skepticism at a hearing Thursday that President Trump had the authority to federalize the National Guard, questioning whether he had followed the law before ordering an extraordinary deployment to Los Angeles over the weekend.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer, presiding over the case, pushed back against the Justice Department's central argument: that courts had no say in the matter.

"We're talking about the president ... exercising his authority, and, of course, the president is limited in his au-

thority," Breyer said. "That's the difference between the president and King George."

"We live in response to a monarchy," the judge continued, adding: "Line drawing is important, because it establishes a system of process."

In the lengthy hearing, Breyer directed most of his questioning to the Trump administration, which has cited Title 10 of the U.S. Code to justify the takeover of the National Guard. But that provision, the judge noted, requires that orders from the president "shall be issued through the governors of the States."

"I'm trying to figure out how something is 'through' somebody, if in fact you didn't send it to him," Breyer asked. "As long as he gets a copy of it at some point, it's going through?"

The judge was less willing, however, to engage in the legality of Trump's deployment of U.S. Marines to Los Angeles. Attorneys for California noted that 140 [See Judge, A7]

Rights groups fight for their own lives

They face death threats, federal inquiries as they aid more immigrants

BY RACHEL URANGA

"No firmes nada," a union organizer shouted into a bullhorn as he stood atop the flatbed of a truck outside Ambiance Apparel, doling out battlefield legal advice not to sign anything. "You have a right to a lawyer. You are not alone."

Advocates and lawyers had arrived at the downtown store minutes after tips began to pop off at the hotline set up by the Los Angeles Rapid Response Network, a coalition of 300 volunteers and 23 labor unions and immigrant rights and social justice groups that was organized last year to respond to enforcement.

They joined protesters and tearful family members jostling around a plate glass window to catch glimpses of [See Advocates, A10]



UNION leader David Huerta, shown after his release, was arrested at a protest.

California launches probe of State Farm

Trump signs law to kill state auto emission rules

White House, Trump

CALIFORNIA

FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA



LUKE JOHNSON Los Angeles Times

HOMELAND SECURITY Secretary Kristi Noem has lunch with National Guard troops in Westwood.

Voices STEVE LOPEZ COLUMNIST

Why federal invasion of L.A. feels so personal

President Trump has sent an army to the city, but isn't that really about putting on a show, creating a crisis where there was none?

I was driving while listening to the news Sunday when I heard House Speaker Mike Johnson justify President Trump's move to send National Guard troops to Los Angeles.

"We have to maintain the rule of law," Johnson said.

I almost swerved off the road. Maintain the rule of law?

Trump pardoned the hooligans who ransacked the Capitol because he lost the 2020 presidential election. They clashed with police, destroyed property and threatened the lives of public officials, and to Trump, they're heroes.

Maintain the rule of law?

Trump is a 34-count felon who has defied judicial rulings, ignored laws that don't serve his interests, and turned his current presidency into an unprecedented adventure in self-dealing and graft.

And then he sent an invading army to Los Angeles, creating a crisis where there was none. Arresting undocumented immigrants with criminal records is one thing, but is that what this was about? Or was it about putting on a show, occupying commercial and residential neighborhoods, raiding car washes and fashion warehouses, and arresting people who were looking for — or on their way to — work?

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth warned that U.S. Marines were on high alert and ready to roll, and I wondered: What next, the Air Force?

Not yet, but Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) was tackled and hauled out of a Homeland Security news conference in Los Angeles on Thursday for trying to ask a question, so anything's possible going forward.

I'm not going to defend the vandalism and violence that followed ICE arrests in Los Angeles, though it's worth noting that most protests were peaceful.

But I am going to defend Los Angeles and the way things work here.

[See Lopez, B5]

Voices ANITA CHABRIA COLUMNIST

Newsom's speech on democracy could turn the tables on president

Frame it as a call to action or a presidential campaign announcement, Gov. Gavin Newsom's address to America on Tuesday has tapped into our zeitgeist (German words feel oddly appropriate at the moment) in a way few others have.

"Democracy is under assault right before our eyes," Newsom said during a live broadcast with a California flag and the U.S. flag in the background. "The moment we've feared has arrived."

What moment exactly is he referring to?

President Trump has put Marines and National Guardsmen on the streets of Los Angeles, and granted himself the power to put them anywhere. Wednesday, a top military leader said those forces could "detain" protesters, but not outright arrest them, though — despite what you see

[See Chabria, B4]



KELVIN KUO Los Angeles Times

MILITARY tanks sit on a rail line Thursday at the Port of Los Angeles.

State's national monuments on Trump hit list?

Justice Department says president can undo designations by his predecessors.

By LILA SEIDMAN

President Trump has the authority to abolish national monuments set aside by past presidents to protect areas of historic and scientific interest, the Justice Department said in an opinion this week, potentially laying the groundwork to dismantle California's two newest monuments — Chuckwalla and Sattitla Highlands.

The May 27 legal opinion released Tuesday overturns a more than 80-year-old Justice Department determination that presidents can't revoke national monuments created by their predecessors under the Antiquities Act.

The finding follows an Interior Department effort to explore altering monuments as part of a push to expand U.S. energy production, a move that set off alarm bells among conservationists that certain public lands could be on the chopping block.

Then-President Biden signed proclamations designating Chuckwalla and Sattitla Highlands national monuments in California's desert and far north shortly before leaving office early

this year. The Justice Department, in its new opinion, said it was asked to look into whether the Antiquities Act — the 1906 law permitting presidents to create monuments — can be used to revoke them.

The opinion, titled "Revocation of Prior Monument Designations," says it can.

In the 50-page document, Deputy Assistant Atty. Gen. Lanora Pettit wrote that presidents can find "that the 'landmarks,' 'structures,' or 'objects' identified in the prior declaration either never were or no longer are deserving of the Act's protections; and such an alteration can have the effect of eliminating entirely the reservation of the parcel of land previously associated with a national monument."

Since its passage, the Antiquities Act has been used by 18 presidents — split evenly between Republicans and Democrats — to designate monuments. California is home to 21 national monuments, more than any other state.

During a Wednesday hearing in Washington, Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) questioned Interior Secretary Doug Burgum about the opinion, which he called "extremely dangerous."

He specifically asked what the secretary's intentions were with regard to the Golden State's newest monuments, which he de-

[See Monuments, B2]

Judge resents celebrity lawyer to 11-year term for fraud

Michael Avenatti stole millions from clients including Stormy Daniels.

By BRITTNY MEJIA

Michael Avenatti, the once-swaggering celebrity lawyer who represented adult film star Stormy Daniels in her court battles against President Trump, was resented Thursday to 11 years in prison for dodging taxes and stealing millions of dollars from clients.

U.S. District Judge James V. Selna resented Avenatti to 135 months — slightly more than 11 years — but credited him 40 months for the time he has served in prison for stealing nearly \$300,000 from Daniels' advance on a book contract. That brought his sentence to nearly eight years.

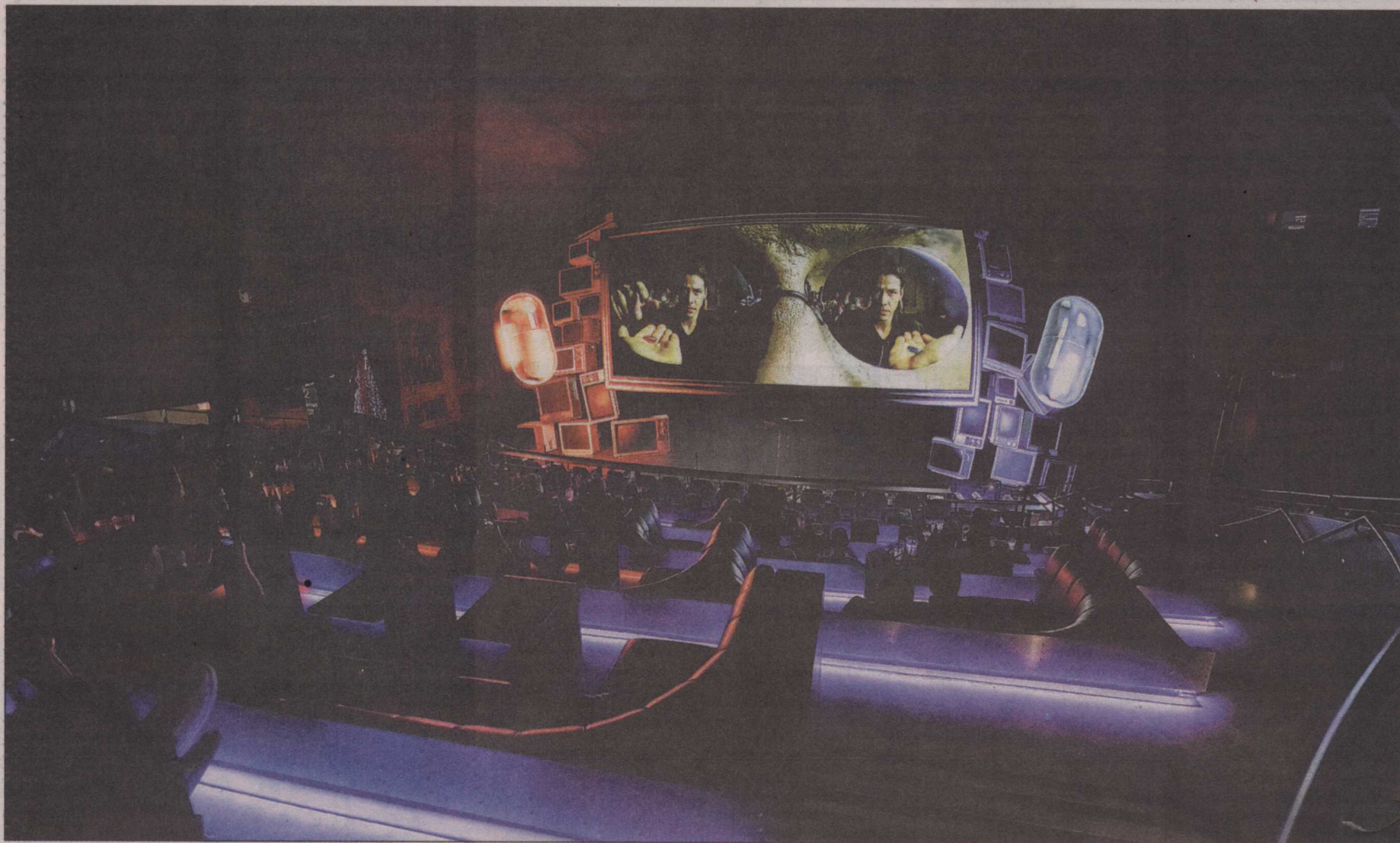
"Avenatti has done many noble and good things in his life, some reflected in this case, but he's also done great evil for which he must an-

abandonment of some of the most basic principles of fairness."

Avenatti pleaded guilty in June 2022 to four counts of wire fraud for stealing money from clients and one count of obstructing collection of payroll taxes from his Seattle coffee business, which is now defunct.

One of the clients he stole from, Geoffrey Ernest Johnson, was a mentally ill paraplegic man on disability. Selna on Thursday ordered Avenatti to pay about \$9 million in restitution to his victims — at least 10, including the Internal Revenue Service and the State Bar of California.

Avenatti, who appeared in court in Santa Ana dressed in a gray sweatshirt and sweatpants, was sentenced to 14 years in prison in 2022. After he appealed the sentence, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ordered a new hearing. The 9th Circuit found that the trial judge based his decision on calculations of a greater loss than victims actually suffered and gave Avenatti too



Photographs from Cosm

NEW ANIMATION enhances the red pill-blue pill scene in "The Matrix," above, at L.A. venue Cosm. Below, CGI surrounds the film to immerse audiences in its world.

Entering a new reality inside 'The Matrix'

[Cosm, from E1] Illusion of in-the-flesh presence. Can't make it to that NBA Finals or World Series game? Cosm wants to be your fallback plan, combining front-row-like seats with unexpected views.

And now, Cosm aims to redefine the moviegoing experience. A revival of "The Matrix" recently opened in what the company calls "shared reality," a marketing term that ultimately means newly created CGI animation towers, over, under and around the original 1999 film. Cosm has in the past shown largely short-form original programming, and "The Matrix" marked its first foray into feature-length films.

The hope is to not only see the film with fresh eyes but to create a sensation of being in the same environment as Keanu Reeves' Neo, Carrie-Anne Moss' Trinity and Laurence Fishburne's Morpheus. "The Matrix" is an ideal film for this experiment, its anti-AI message decidedly topical while its themes grapple with dual visions of reality.

There's been a host of so-called immersive ambitions

to alter the moviegoing experience over the decades, be it the on-and-off flirtation with interactive cinema, a brief trend in the '90s that recently lived again on Netflix (see "Black Mirror: Bandersnatch"), to more recent 4-DX theaters with movement-enabled seats (see the light, water and wind effects of "Twisters"). Cosm, like the bigger, more live music-focused Sphere in Las Vegas, seems to have a different pitch: an all-encompassing screen that can provide previously unexplored vantage points, even at times creating a theme park ride-like sense of movement.

Cosm's interpretation of "The Matrix," a collaboration with experiential creative agency Little Cinema, envelopes audiences from its opening action sequence when a nighttime view of a city skyline seemingly places us on a rooftop. Elsewhere, Neo's office building becomes a maze of cubicles. The film's centerpiece red pill versus blue pill moment centers the frame among oversized, glowing capsules. When Neo awakens, we are lost amid mountainous, in-



dustrial pods.

The challenge: To not make it feel like a gimmick, yet to also know when to pull back and let the film stand for itself. "The No. 1 core principle was to enhance and don't overshadow," says Jay Rinsky, founder of Little Cinema. "Metaphorically for us, the movie itself is the lead singer and we are the backing band. Let the movie be the star. Let it sing. And basically follow the key beats — follow the sound design, the emotional moments and enhance the action."

The accompanying images get more aggressive as the film races toward its climax. The animations are most effective when they're expanding the screen rather than echoing the action — showing us the viewpoint of a careening helicopter for in-

stance, rather than repeating or mimicking a beat of the film. Having seen "The Matrix" before, I know the story and its cadence, and was perhaps more willing to turn my attention away from the film, which is placed in the center of the screen and often set within a picture frame.

In turn, I was dazzled by the scenes shot inside Morpheus' hovercraft the Nebuchadnezzar, in which the vessel's surroundings — its buzzing, electrical core and its assortment of monitors — are fleshed out around the screen. Film purists, I wonder, may balk at seeing images beyond the director's vision — Rinsky says he hasn't been in touch with directors Lana or Lilly Wachowski — but I found it could help build a world, es-

pecially for revival cinema on a second or third viewing.

Expectedly, the film's final act becomes a bevy of secondary action. Bullets that fly off the frame of the film now find a landing spot, as building walls shatter and crumble around us. Cosm's screen is crisp and encompassing enough that it can mimic movement or flight, and thankfully this is used sparingly, twisting only when the film's characters take to the skies.

When Cosm opened last summer Chief Executive Jeb Terry stressed the venue wasn't in the business of showing films, wanting to focus on sports or original programming. "We're not a first-run theater," Terry said. "We're leaning into the experiential side." Seemingly, "The Matrix" fits this

plan, as the accompanying CGI images have been in the works since about August 2024, says Rinsky, with the bulk of the heavy lifting beginning in January.

Rinsky acknowledges "The Matrix" fits the format particularly well because it "plays in a realm of fantasy that allows you to change environments around," but is quick to add that Cosm and Little Cinema hope to expand the program of enhancing Hollywood products. "It is a bit of a mission and a philosophy," he says. "Every film in every genre has its own unique propositions and can be adopted and suited well. We're excited about horror, and we're excited about comedy." Future projects have not yet been announced.

Cosm also has a venue in Dallas, with spots in Atlanta and Detroit on the way. Rinsky's hope, of course, is that Cosm someday has enough market penetration that filmmakers can create the format from the ground up.

"I'm really bullish about this being the new cinema," Rinsky says. "I think in five to 10 years, there will be 100 of these around. Once it hits scale, then big studios will have releases created specifically for this format."

It's an optimistic view of the future that's arriving at a time of disruption in Hollywood, from shake-ups due to the streaming market to artificial intelligence. For Cosm, it's the early days, but it's a vision that needs neither a red nor blue pill. Its outlook is much more rose-colored.

'Materialists' misses a chance

['Materialists,' from E1] "Past Lives," her lightly autobiographical breakthrough, tasked a writer to choose between her South Korean childhood beau and her hapless and less successful American husband — that is, to decide whether to keep chasing youthful dreams or settle for adult reality. I liked chunks of the film, but it rankled me that she framed the spouse as

about him is how confidentially he picks up the check. (I gasped to see her walk out of a bar, tactlessly ordering him to cover the tab.) Nearly every line in the film's ferociously hilarious first hour is like Jane Austen reborn as a shock jock, until Song runs out of material and starts repeating herself.

Love should be simple, "Materialists" believes. It opens (and closes) with an



Firm's spyware hacked journalists, group says

Questions grow about whether Italian prime minister's government may have spied on reporters, activists.

By ERIKA KINETZ AND
PAOLO SANTALUCIA

ROME — Spyware from a U.S.-backed Israeli company was used to target the phones of at least three prominent journalists in Europe, two of whom are editors at an investigative news site in Italy, according to digital researchers at Citizen Lab, citing new forensic evidence of the attacks.

The findings come amid growing questions about what role the government of Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni may have played in spying on journalists and civil society activists critical of her leadership, and raised new concerns about the potential for abuse of commercial spyware, even in democratic countries.

"Any attempts to illegally access data of citizens, including journalists and political opponents, is unacceptable, if confirmed," the European Commission said in a statement Wednesday in response to questions from members of parliament. "The Commission will use all the tools at its disposal to ensure the effective application of EU law."

Meloni's office declined to comment Thursday, but a member of her Cabinet has said that Italy "rigorously respected" the law and that the government hadn't illegally spied on journalists.

Mercenary spyware

The company behind the hacks, Paragon Solutions, has sought to position itself as a virtuous player in the



SIMONA GRANATI Corbis

ITALIAN Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's office had no comment on the claims.

mercenary spyware industry and won U.S. government contracts, the Associated Press found.

Backed by former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Paragon was reportedly acquired by AE Industrial Partners, a private investment firm based in Florida, in a December deal worth at least \$500 million, pending regulatory approvals. AE Industrial Partners didn't directly respond to requests for comment on the deal.

Paragon's spyware, Graphite, was used to target around 90 WhatsApp users from more than two dozen countries, primarily in Europe, Meta said in January. Since then, there's been a scramble to figure out who was hacked and who was responsible.

"We've seen first-hand how commercial spyware can be weaponized to target journalists and civil society, and these companies must be held accountable," a spokesperson for WhatsApp

told AP in an email. "WhatsApp will continue to protect peoples' ability to communicate privately." Meta said the vulnerability has been patched and Meta has not detected subsequent attacks. The company also sent a cease-and-desist letter to Paragon. Last month, a California court awarded Meta \$168 million in damages from Israel's NSO Group, whose spyware was used to hack 1,400 WhatsApp accounts, including of journalists, activists and government officials.

Journalists targeted

The Citizen Lab's findings, released Thursday, show that the use of spyware against journalists has continued, despite the backlash against NSO Group, and establish for the first time that Paragon was able to successfully infect Apple devices.

Ciro Pellegrino, who heads the Naples newsroom of an investigative news out-

let called Fanpage.it, received a notice April 29 that his iPhone had been targeted.

Last year, Fanpage secretly infiltrated the youth wing of Meloni's Brothers of Italy party and filmed some of them making fascist and racist remarks.

Pellegrino's colleague, Fanpage editor in chief Francesco Cancellato, also received a notice from Meta that his Android device had been targeted by Paragon spyware, though forensic evidence that his phone was actually infected with Graphite hasn't yet surfaced, according to Citizen Lab.

The Citizen Lab's report Thursday also revealed a third case, of a "prominent European journalist," who asked to remain anonymous, but is connected to the Italian cluster by forensic evidence unearthed by researchers at the laboratory, which is run out of the Munk School at the Uni-

versity of Toronto.

The Citizen Lab, which has analyzed all the devices, said the attack came via iMessage, and that Apple has patched the vulnerability. Apple did not respond immediately to requests for comment.

"Paragon is now mired in exactly the kind of abuse scandal that NSO Group is notorious for," said John Scott-Railton, a senior researcher at the Citizen Lab. "This shows the industry and its way of doing business is the problem. It's not just a few bad apples."

Stealthy spyware

Paragon's spyware is especially stealthy because it can compromise a device without any action from the user. Similar to the NSO Group's notorious Pegasus spyware, which has been blacklisted by the U.S. government, Graphite allows the operator to covertly access applications, including encrypted messengers like Signal and WhatsApp.

"There's no link to click, attachment to download, file to open or mistake to make," Scott-Railton said. "One moment the phone is yours, and the next minute its data is streaming to an attacker."

Italian oversight

COPASIR, the parliamentary committee overseeing the Italian secret services, took the rare step last week of making public the results of its investigation into the government's use of Paragon.

The COPASIR report said that Italian intelligence services hadn't spied on Cancellato, the editor of Fanpage.

The report did confirm the surveillance, with tools including Graphite, of civil society activists, but said they had been targeted le-

gally and with government authorization — not as activists but over their work related to irregular immigration and national security.

Giovanni Donzelli, vice president of COPASIR and a prominent member of Meloni's Brothers of Italy party, declined further comment Thursday, saying the parliamentary report was "more relevant than an analysis done by a privately funded Canadian laboratory."

Citizen Lab says it's "rigorously independent," and doesn't accept research funding from governments or companies.

Italy and Paragon both say they've terminated their relationship, but offer starkly different versions of the breakup.

Paragon referred questions to a statement it gave to Israeli newspaper Haaretz, in which the company said that it stopped providing spyware to Italy after the government declined its offer to help investigate Cancellato's case. Italian authorities, however, said they had rejected Paragon's offer over national security concerns and ended the relationship following media outcry.

U.S. contracts

Paragon has been keen to deflect reputational damage that could, in theory, affect its contracts with the U.S. government.

A 2023 executive order, which so far hasn't been overturned by President Trump, prohibits federal government departments and agencies from acquiring commercial spyware that has been misused by foreign governments, including to limit freedom of expression and political dissent.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security awarded Paragon a one-year, \$2-million contract last September for operations and support of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, public records show.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has also reportedly used the spyware. In December 2022, Adam Schiff, the California Democrat who at the time chaired the House Intelligence Committee, wrote the administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration questioning whether the DEA's use of Graphite spyware undermined efforts to deter the "broad proliferation of powerful surveillance capabilities to autocratic regimes and others who may misuse them."

Kinetz and Santalucia write for the Associated Press. AP writers Byron Tau in Washington and Lorne Cook in Brussels contributed to this report.

Netanyahu survives vote to dissolve Israeli parliament

By MELANIE LIDMAN

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government survived an attempt to dissolve Israel's parliament early Thursday morning, with most of his ultra-Orthodox coalition partners joining him in voting against a bill that would have forced them to register for military service while the country is at war.

The vote was the most serious challenge to Netanyahu's government since the Hamas-led attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which was the biggest security failure in Israel's history and triggered the ongoing

war in Gaza. The bill's failure means that no other piece of legislation to dissolve parliament, called the Knesset, can be submitted for at least six months, shoring up Netanyahu's embattled coalition.

The ultra-Orthodox parties are furious that the government has failed to pass a law exempting their community from mandatory military service. The issue has long divided the Jewish Israeli public, especially during the 20-month war in the Gaza Strip.

Israel's opposition had hoped that public anger over the exemptions would help topple the government. But just two of the 18 ultra-Or-

thodox members of the Knesset supported the bill.

Most ultra-Orthodox legislators agreed to vote against the bill after Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Chairman Yuli Edelstein said that he and the ultra-Orthodox parties had reached an understanding on the basis of a new draft law, which they will continue discussing over the coming week.

Yitzhak Goldknopf, the head of the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism party, resigned in protest as the minister of construction and housing, but will remain a member of the Knesset. Ari Kalman, spokesperson for Goldknopf, said that the

minister resigned because he was frustrated with Netanyahu's constant requests for more time to pass a draft exemption law.

"Whatever they haven't been able to do over the past year they won't do in a week," Kalman said.

Military service is mandatory for most Jews in Israel, but the politically powerful ultra-Orthodox, who make up roughly 13% of Israeli society, have traditionally received exemptions if they are studying full time in religious seminaries.

The ultra-Orthodox, also known as *haredim*, or "God-fearing" in Hebrew, say that integrating into the army threatens their traditional

way of life. Each year, roughly 13,000 ultra-Orthodox men reach the conscription age of 18, but less than 10% enlist, according to parliament's State Control Committee, which held a hearing examining the issue.

Israel is engaged in the longest active war in the country's history, which has stretched its military to the breaking point. The *haredim's* widespread refusal to serve, and threats to topple the government during wartime, have enraged many Israelis, especially those who have served multiple rounds of reserve duty.

Lidman writes for the Associated Press.

China extending its aircraft carriers' reach with first foray into Pacific

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
AND DAVID RISING

TOKYO — Japan this week confirmed that two Chinese aircraft carriers are operating together for the first time in the Pacific, fueling Tokyo's concern about Beijing's rapidly expanding military activity far beyond its borders.

Carriers are considered crucial to projecting power

torishima, the country's easternmost island.

There was no violation of Japanese territorial waters. Still, Nakatani said Japan has expressed "concern" to the Chinese Embassy.

Why is Japan worried?

China's military buildup and expanding area of activity have raised tensions in the region.

The Chinese carriers sailed past the first-island chain, the Pacific archipelago



more power to run advanced systems.

Satellite imagery provided to the Associated Press last year indicated China is working on nuclear propulsion systems for its carriers.

Any other recent concerns?

In August, a Chinese reconnaissance aircraft violated Japan's airspace off the southern prefecture of Nagasaki, and a Chinese survey ship violated Japanese territorial waters off

JUN 09 2025

Ruling: Colleges can pay athletes

A federal judge approves NCAA settlement that shreds the last vestiges of the amateur model.

By EDDIE PELLIS

A federal judge signed off on arguably the biggest change in the history of college sports Friday, clearing the way for schools to begin paying their athletes millions of dollars as soon as next month as the multi-billion-dollar industry shreds the last vestiges of the amateur model that defined it for more than a century.

Nearly five years after Arizona State swimmer Grant House sued the NCAA and its five biggest conferences to lift restrictions on revenue sharing, U.S. Judge Claudia Wilken approved the final proposal that had been hung up on roster limits, just one of many changes ahead amid concerns that thousands of walk-on athletes will lose their chance to play college sports.

The sweeping terms of the so-called House settlement include approval for each school to share up to \$20.5 million with athletes over the next year and \$2.7 billion that will be paid over the next decade to thousands of former players who were barred from that revenue. [See NCAA, A10]

'Pivotal moment' for Bruin athletes

Athletic director shares plans for UCLA, which is expected to follow judge's pay formula. SPORTS, D1



MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

PEOPLE block a street and set a fire near a Home Depot during protests against ICE and immigration raids on Saturday in Paramount.

ICE raids across L.A. spur protests

Trump officials vow to go on as local leaders, migrant advocates push back

By RACHEL URANGA, REBECCA ELLIS, CLARA HARTER, RUBEN VIVES, SEEMA MEHTA AND CORINNE PURTILL

Fallout from aggressive U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement sweeps in Los Angeles continued Saturday, with fierce pushback from protesters, open sparring between L.A. leadership and federal officials and the Trump administration vowing to send the National Guard to the city to assist with operations.

Border czar Tom Holman told Fox News the Guard would be deployed Saturday night to help with operations. It's unclear how many Guard members would arrive and exactly what their role would be.

It came after a day of clashes be-



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

POLICE clear the streets Friday and check on a man who fell as protesters gather in response to ICE raids in Los Angeles.

tween federal agents and protesters at a Home Depot in Paramount that was broadcast nationwide through the day. The raids sparked outrage from state and local leaders.

Gov. Gavin Newsom on Saturday condemned the ICE raids in Los Angeles and the response by the Trump administration, and said he has deployed additional CHP officers to L.A. highways to "keep the peace" but not aid the federal actions.

"The federal government is sowing chaos so they can have an excuse to escalate. That is not the way any civilized country behaves," Newsom said in a statement.

Newsom said the Trump administration is moving to take over the California National Guard and deploy 2,000 soldiers, which he said was "purposeful." [See Protests, A11]

Mexico's lawsuit didn't succeed but forced U.S. to face gun traffic issue

By PATRICK J. McDONNELL AND KATE LINTHICUM

MEXICO CITY — More than a decade ago, Mexican authorities erected a billboard along the border in Ciudad Juárez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso.

"No More Weapons" was the stark message, written in English and crafted from 3 tons of firearms that had been seized and crushed.

It was a desperate entreaty to U.S. officials to

stanch the so-called Iron River, the southbound flow of arms that was fueling record levels of carnage in Mexico.

But the guns kept coming — and the bloodletting and mayhem grew.

Finally, with homicides soaring to record levels, exasperated authorities pivoted to a novel strategy: Mexico filed a \$10-billion suit in U.S. federal court seeking to have Smith & Wesson and other signature manufacturers held accountable for

[See Mexico, A4]



BRYANT ANDERSON Associated Press

BOATS collide as a tsunami's waters sweep through Crescent City, Calif., in 2011.

Swelling threat from quakes

Near-shore tsunamis, triggered by temblors close to

Venture capitalists ramping up investment in L.A. area

Diverse firms, not just AI, draw \$3.1 billion in first-quarter deals, up 15% from last year.

By QUEENIE WONG AND WENDY LEE

Early this year, private equity firm Blackstone bet big on the future of artificial intelligence by investing \$300 million in a Chatsworth company that's been around for more than two decades. The company, DDN,

Cynthia Erivo returns to R&B roots

Will the benefits of hosting outweigh the burdens?

Will the average Southern Californian get anything out of the yearslong buildup and staging of the Games?

And will basic services and infrastructure near Olympic venues get upgrades at the expense of

[See Lopez, B6]

Baldwin Park mourns officer

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

Sirens blared along Ramona Boulevard in Baldwin Park as police officers from throughout the region gathered Friday to mourn one of their own.

In remembrance of Officer Samuel Riveros, who was killed in a shootout last weekend, hundreds of residents and officers surrounded an expansive arrangement of blue and white flowers fashioned into the shape of hearts and crosses at the Baldwin Park Police Department.

Family, friends and locals stood solemnly and at times silently wept as law enforcement officials spoke of Riveros' work and presence in the community.

Riveros, 35, served for nearly 10 years as a member of Baldwin Park's SWAT team and also worked as a training officer, according to Police Chief Robert Lopez.

He was a snowboarding enthusiast and often attended concerts, friends and colleagues recalled.

A photo of Riveros smiling in his police uniform was in the front of the stage, and he was decorated in the colors of his favorite team, the Los Angeles Dodgers.

His leaves behind a legacy that will live on in our hearts that will

[See Vigil, B8]

BRANSON-POTTS

SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz Wharf, jutting half a mile into the Monterey Bay, offers a cheerful stroll past souvenir shops, fishing boat rentals advertised as "Husband Daycare," and children giggling at hordes of fat sea lions barking below.

But at the end of the city-owned wharf, hanging on a flimsy metal fence, are small warning signs. "KEEP OUT," reads one. "DANGER," says another.

The signs have been there for about six months — ever since a 180-foot section of the wooden pier collapsed into the ocean after being battered by towering waves



STEPHEN LAM San Francisco Chronicle

A SECTION of the wharf that collapsed into the ocean is seen at a nearby beach in December.

storm that wreaked havoc along the Central Coast.

City officials hope the signs, fencing, orange safety barriers and exposed wooden decking at the end of the wharf will be gone by early next year. Construction is expected to begin this fall on a \$1-million partial repair of the structure, which draws more than 2 million visitors a year.

"It's shaken us up to see the damage to the end of the wharf," said Tony Elliot, the city's director of parks and recreation. "The wharf is 111 years old, and we want to make sure it's here for another 100-plus years."

On a sunny afternoon late last month, Nick James, a 26-year-old vacationer

[See Wharf, B6]

broke out, there were widespread reports of landlords illegally price gouging, even raising rent beyond 50%. But there's been debate over how widespread and long-term the fire effects would be, leading to different responses from different government bodies.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in February passed eviction protections for many tenants economically affected by the fires, but the Los Angeles City Council declined to take similar measures amid concerns they would hurt landlords.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency hasn't leased apartments for displaced residents as it has after similar disasters, saying data indicate there is

[See Rent, B8]

Voices ANITA CHABRIA COLUMNIST

ICE arrests a union leader. What's coming

The move 'woke people up ... and people are ready to get to action,' a labor official says



GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

IMMIGRANT rights activists protest L.A. sweeps by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Unions in California are different from those in other places.

More than any state in our troubled country, their ranks are filled with people of color and immigrants. While unions have always been tied closely with the struggles of civil rights, that has become even more pronounced in the years since George Floyd was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis.

In the subsequent national soul-searching, unions were forced to do a bit of their own. But where that conversation has largely broken down for general society under the pressure of President Trump's right-wing rage, it took hold inside of unions to a much greater degree — leading to more leadership from people of color, sometimes younger leadership and definitely an understanding from the rank and file that these are organizations that fight far beyond the workplace.

Which is why the arrest of David Huerta, president of SEIU-USWW and SEIU California, by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Friday is going to have a major impact on the coming months as deportations continue.

"They have woke us up," Tia Orr told me Saturday morning. She's the executive director of the 700,000-

[See Chabria, B10]

CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025 • LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

Voices

STEVE LOPEZ
COLUMNIST

L.A.'s Olympic clock is ticking

The city still has high hurdles to overcome in run-up to 2028 Summer Games.

Los Angeles is now a mere 12 months away from serving as primary host of the World Cup soccer championships and three years away from taking the world stage as host of both the 2028 Summer Olympics and Paralympics. Athletes and tourists by the tens of thousands will pour into the region from around the world, and I'm reminded of the classic film "Sunset Boulevard," in which Gloria Swanson proclaimed, "I'm ready for my close-up."

Will L.A. be ready for its close-up?

That's a question I intend to explore on a semi-regular basis, and you're invited to worry and wonder along with me by sending your comments and questions to steve.lopez@latimes.com.

To let you know where I'm coming from, I'm a sports fan who watches the Olympics on television despite the politics, the doping scandals and the corporatization of the Games. But I'm also a professional skeptic, and my questions about whether we're ready for our close-up.

Here are just a few: Will the benefits of hosting outweigh the burdens? Will the average Southern Californian get anything out of the yearslong buildup and staging of the Games? And will basic services and infrastructure near Olympic venues get upgrades at the expense of

[See Lopez, B6]

Baldwin Park mourns officer

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCHANAN

Sirens blared along Ramona Boulevard in Baldwin Park as police officers from throughout the region gathered Friday to mourn one of their own.

In remembrance of Officer Samuel Riveros, who was killed in a shootout last weekend, hundreds of resi-



JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

THE POPULAR Santa Cruz Wharf was significantly damaged by high surf during a storm in December.

What will be the fate of the Santa Cruz Wharf?

Up and down the coast, storms are battering California's beloved piers. Repairs are expensive. Are they worth it?

BY HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

SANTA CRUZ — The Santa Cruz Wharf, jutting half a mile into the Monterey Bay, offers a cheerful stroll past souvenir shops, fishing boat rentals advertised as "Husband Daycare," and children giggling at hordes of fat sea lions barking below.

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STEPHEN LAM San Francisco Chronicle

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during an atmospheric river storm that wreaked havoc along the Central Coast.

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On a sunny afternoon late last month, Nick James, a 26-year-old vacationer

[See Wharf, B6]

A look at fires' effects on rents

Prices grew more near the Palisades and Altadena areas than in the rest of the county.

BY PHI DO AND ANDREW KHOURI

Several months after fires tore through Pacific Palisades and Altadena, rent near burn areas is rising faster than elsewhere in Los Angeles County, according to an L.A. Times analysis of Zillow data.

In ZIP Codes within three miles of the Palisades fire, rent increased 4.8% from December to April, according to the analysis. Within three miles of the Eaton fire that destroyed swaths of Altadena, rent jumped 5.2%.

In L.A. County ZIP Codes farther than three miles of either burn area, the gain was smaller — 2.2%.

Rent could be rising for multiple reasons, experts said, but it's probably climbing faster near the fires because thousands of homes were destroyed and displaced residents wanted to stay near where they had built their lives, in the process creating a surge of demand in an already drum-tight housing market.

"It doesn't surprise me," said Nicole Lambrou, an urban planning professor at Cal Poly Pomona. "You're looking close to where you were because that's your community."

In the weeks after flames broke out, there were widespread reports of landlords illegally price gouging, even raising rent beyond 50%. But there's been debate over how widespread and long-term the fire effects would be, leading to different responses from different government bodies.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in February passed eviction protections for many tenants economically affected by the fires, but the Los Angeles City Council declined to take similar measures amid concerns they would hurt landlords.

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[See Rent, B8]

Voices ANITA CHABRIA COLUMNIST

ICE arrests a union leader. What's coming

The move 'woke people up ... and people are ready to get to action,' a labor official says



Unions in California are different from those in other places.

More than any state in our troubled country

ess, now he raises awareness



DON LEACH Daily Pilot

sure. He wants to talk to her, not to scold her but partially to thank her for her vigilance.

"She's a neighbor concerned for the safety of the baby and the neighborhood, but also, it's crazy for people who are dealing with homelessness to have to deal with this kind of stuff," he said. "What if it was a great parent who is trying to get their baby to sleep but they happen to be unhoused? Why should the cops be called on them? Just because they're experiencing homelessness doesn't mean that the baby is in danger, or that the mom is a bad mom or the dad is a bad dad."

Hamborg said his father instilled in him compassion for the homeless. Now he's using that compassion to try to spark a bigger conversation.

In his viral Instagram video, he asked, "If you saw me would you have thought I was homeless?" About two-thirds of the more than 500,000 poll respondents have voted "No."

Of course, his association with the video also has to be considered. A People magazine article has also heightened his celebrity.

"I went to the grocery store and got stopped a few times by people asking if I was the homeless guy," Hamborg said. "They were very excited to meet me, which was interesting. It was funny. I'm like, 'Yeah, that's me.'"

"I'm just glad that this whole conversation is taking place. It's cool to see fruit come from it already, whether it's me selling paintings and the business growing, and then people having conversations about this important topic."

GirlsDoPorn boss is guilty of sex trafficking

Michael Pratt, former FBI 'Most Wanted'

ferred a \$100,000 reward in return for information leading to his arrest.

Authorities finally

CITY & STATE



KSBW

THIS IMAGE from video shows flames from a major fire at the Moss Landing power complex in January.

Why PG&E quickly shut down its effort to restart battery plant

BY HAILEY BRANSON-POTTS

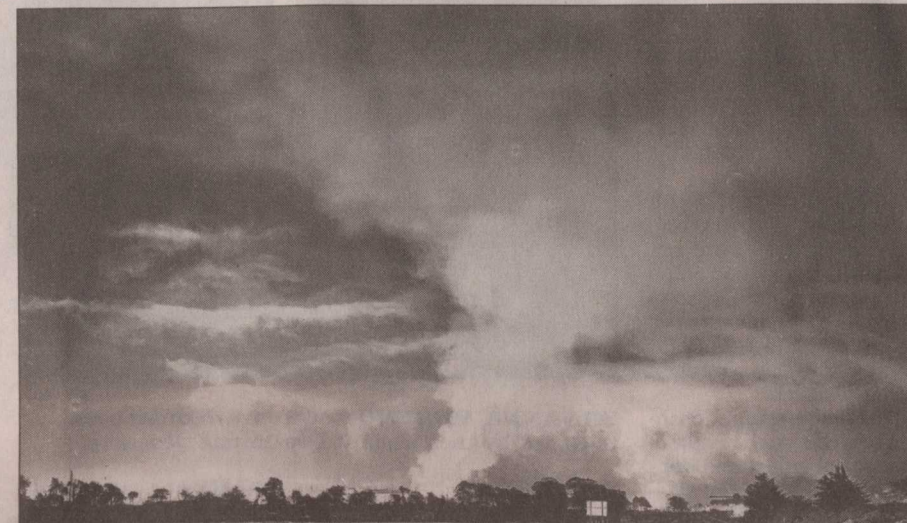
When a massive fire ignited in January at one of the world's largest lithium-ion battery storage facilities, the neighbors demanded answers.

They wanted to know what started the fire that smoldered for days in Monterey County, spewing toxic gas into the air and prompting evacuation warnings for 1,500 people.

Nearly five months later and with the fire's cause still unknown, Pacific Gas & Electric began reopening an adjacent battery site on June 1 despite objections from local officials.

But the restart — which the utility said was needed to meet summer energy demands — was called off almost as soon as it began.

Workers who "began methodically returning the battery storage" discovered



TAYFUN COSKUN Anadolu

THE FIRE smoldered, spewing toxic gas and prompting evacuation warnings.

prompted calls for additional safety regulations around battery storage — as well as more local control over where storage sites are located.

The PG&E-owned Elk-

packs — essentially shipping-container-size units filled with battery modules. The facility did not burn but automatically shut down when its safety equipment detected the fire in the Vis-

quickly paused the restart.

But, he said, he still wants the utility to wait until the fire investigations are complete to try again.

"That PG&E encountered problems as they recharged their batteries

State agency to investigate fatal LAPD shooting

Justice Department will look into whether slain man was armed as alleged by officers.

BY MATTHEW ORMSETH

The California Department of Justice will investigate a fatal shooting by Los Angeles Police Department officers under a law that empowers the state attorney general to probe police shootings of unarmed people — despite the LAPD saying the man killed Tuesday was holding a gun.

At 10 p.m. Tuesday, officers responded to a reported shooting in an apartment building in the 1000 block of Ardmore Avenue in Koreatown, LAPD officials said in an unsigned statement.

As they entered the building, Ronald Gainer Jr. exited an apartment holding a handgun, officials said. The officers fired at Gainer, who retreated into the apartment.

The officers entered the unit and took Gainer into custody, according to the LAPD. Gainer, 35, died at a hospital, according to the L.A. County medical examiner's office.

Officers found a handgun and discharged cartridge casings "at scene," the LAPD said, along with a second gun and ammunition inside the apartment.

According to the police statement, Gainer was involved earlier that evening in

a "domestic violence incident" with his girlfriend. After she fled, Gainer allegedly fired a gun into the air and toward a building, prompting the response by the officers who shot him, the LAPD said.

The LAPD's Force Investigation Division was already probing the shooting — standard protocol for all uses of force by officers — when on Wednesday California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta announced his office was investigating as well.

In a news release, Bonta cited Assembly Bill 1506, which requires the state's Department of Justice to investigate police shootings of unarmed people.

Alexandra Duquet, a spokeswoman for Bonta, said state prosecutors will investigate cases when it isn't immediately clear whether the person killed had control of a weapon.

AB 1506 defines "possession" of a weapon as being "under the civilian's dominion and control at the time of the shooting."

Agents from the Department of Justice's Division of Law Enforcement will conduct an investigation separate from the LAPD's and present their findings to prosecutors in Bonta's office, who will make a decision on whether to bring criminal charges.

If no case is filed, state prosecutors must release a report detailing the evidence and the legal reasoning for why charges were not warranted.

Bass taps AECOM to help with master plan for Palisades recovery

BY JULIA WICK

quickly and safely as possible," Bass said in a statement Tuesday. "AECOM's ex-

JUN 09 2025

WSCE

Los Angeles Times

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

FRANCES HOWARD GOLDWAY
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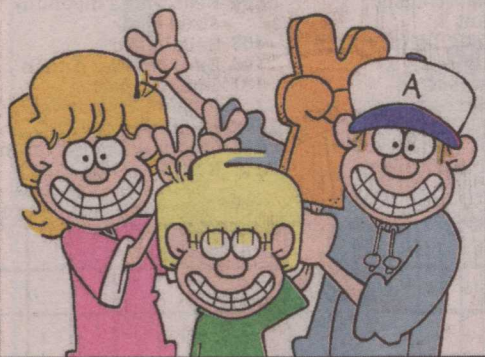


BEFORE ELPHABA

As the world waits for

FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore



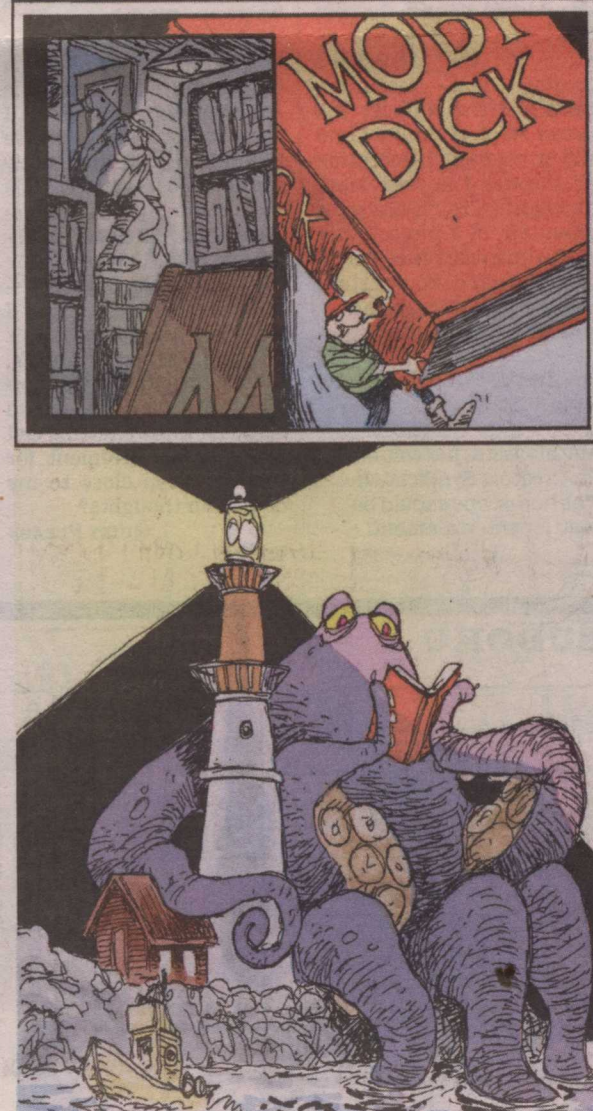
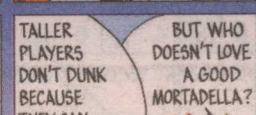
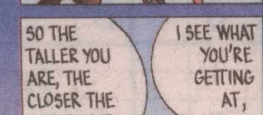
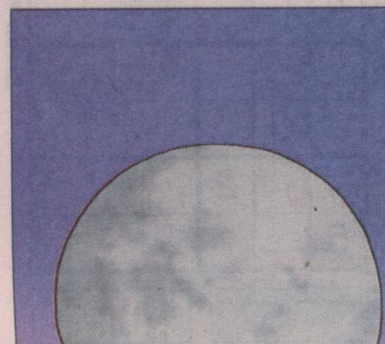
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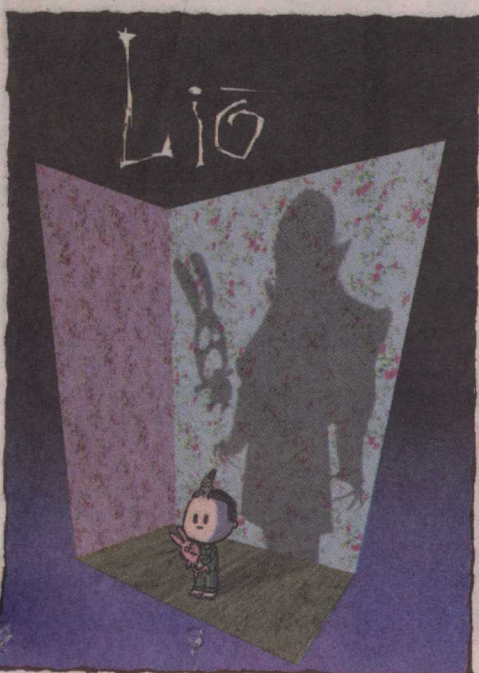
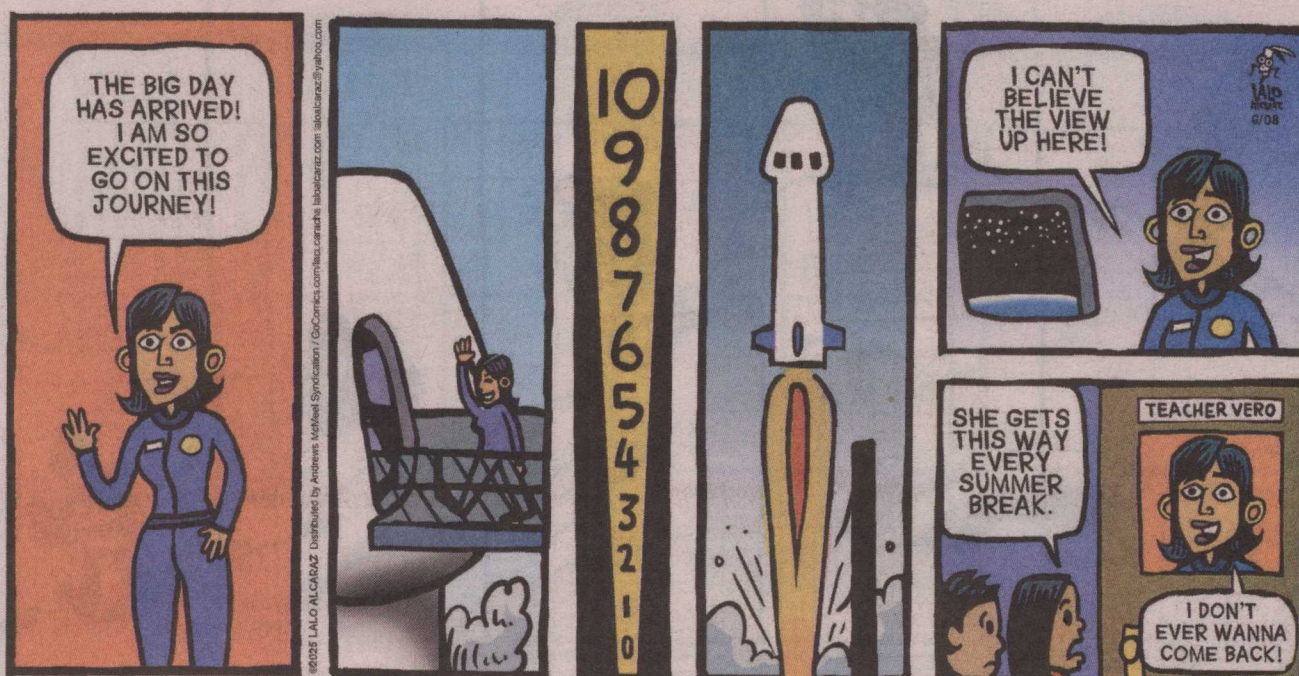
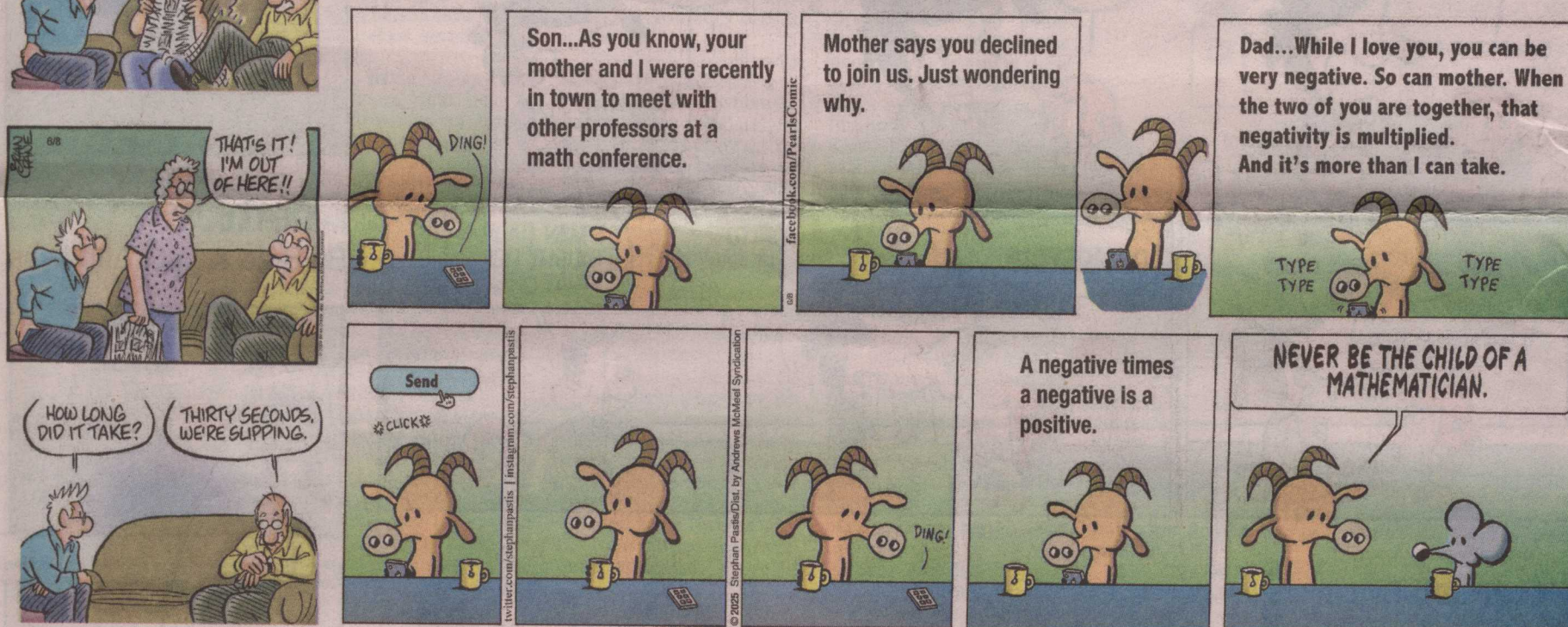
FRAZZ By Jef Mallett



CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis



Looming tariffs casting cloud over wedding plans

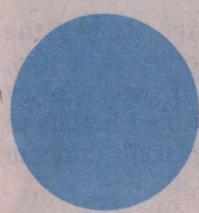
Couples and vendors cutting back and trying to get ahead of pricier imported goods. **In Money**

Rob Lowe talks cheat days and eating like a caveman

Actor touts the importance of healthful eating and balance and why he avoids diets. **In Life**

Players who need to improve in year two

After rough rookie seasons, NFL players including Caleb Williams still have time to step up and adjust. **In Sports**



USA TODAY

THE NATION'S NEWS | \$3 | MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

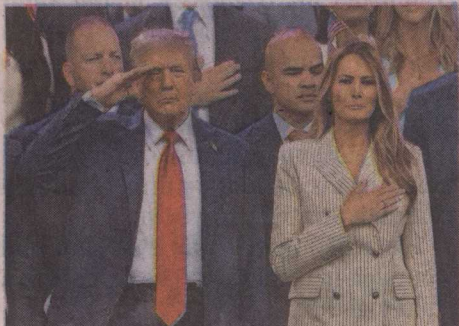
KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI/IMAGN IMAGES



JUN 16 2025

Trump's parade could be a pivot point

Show of force comes amid a sense of peril, growing unrest



President Donald Trump and Melania Trump preside over a celebration of the Army's 250th birthday June 14 in Washington, DC. CARLOS BARRIA/REUTERS



Susan Page
Washington Bureau Chief
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump's military parade was just eight blocks long. And heard round the world. That's true even though the June 14 parade itself turned out to be a damp

and relatively low-key affair. Thousands of spectators lined a stretch of Constitution Avenue in Washington in an off-and-on drizzle to applaud a slow-moving procession of troops, tanks, drones, a robot dog and a real dog marking the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army.

At the end, they joined in a rendition of "Happy Birthday" for the president, who happened to be turning 79 years old. "Every other country celebrates their victories," Trump said at the start of his

brief speech, defending his controversial decision to stage the parade. "It's about time America did, too."

But the parade may prove less consequential than the "No Kings" marches it sparked. In the biggest and broadest protests of his second term, millions of Americans in about 2,000 communities gathered to object to his assertion of unprecedented presidential powers

See PAGE, Page 2A

Jailbreak month ago leads city to look inward

New Orleans confronts an unsettling history

Chris Kenning
USA TODAY

NEW ORLEANS — They waited until after midnight to make their move.

As nearly 1,400 inmates at the sprawling New Orleans jail slept, 10 men slipped quietly from their metal bunks. A worker monitoring their tier by surveillance camera went on break.

By 12:22 a.m., several inmates in orange and white prison clothes were jarring open the door of an empty cell.

An audacious escape plan was unfolding.

But to reach freedom on this warm Louisiana night, everything would have to go right.

They would have to wrench a toilet from the wall. Get past steel bars. Climb a wall tipped with sharp wire.

All without being spotted in a jail bristling with 900 security cameras.



The brazen escape of 10 inmates May 16 in New Orleans has put a spotlight on the city's troubled history with criminal justice. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

About an hour later, the men — some facing charges for violent crimes including second-degree murder — were

'Invasion' rhetoric heightens tension



Federal agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, FBI and Homeland Security Investigations conduct raids at Cedar Run apartment complex in Denver on Feb. 5. KEVIN MOHATT/REUTERS

Trump claims new wartime powers to step up crackdown on immigration

Trevor Hughes and Lauren Villagran
USA TODAY

SUNLAND PARK, NM — The U.S.-Mexico border used to buzz with illegal migration at a scale President Donald Trump called an "invasion."

Now soldiers surveil the desert from military vehicles, Border Patrol radios are silent and illegal crossings have fallen to record lows. Reaching far beyond the border,

rests by masked agents a common sight in America and packed detention centers with immigrants, the vast majority without criminal records. He's now federalized the California National Guard to crack down on immigrants and the protesters trying to defend them.

Trump's aggressive actions and protesters' increasingly violent opposition — have touched off a furious national debate about civil rights, the rule of law and what the

"The prior administration allowed unchecked millions. ... This

The New York Times

VOL. CLXXIV No. 60,549

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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025

Prices in Canada may be higher

\$4.00

JUN 13 2025

INDIAN JET BOUND FOR U.K. CRASHES, KILLING OVER 250

Plane Falls on Medical College in India
— At Least One Passenger Lives

This article is by Suhasini Raj, Pragati K.B., Mujib Mashal, Michael Levenson and Jacob Judah.

An Air India flight bound for London crashed only seconds after takeoff in western India on Thursday, plunging into a local medical college and killing more than 260 people, officials said.

It was India's worst aviation disaster since 1996.

Video verified by The New York Times shows the plane taking off and then descending slowly over a cluster of buildings as if it were gliding before a large fireball erupts on the horizon. It did not tumble or plunge out of the sky, and was in the air for less than a minute, the video shows.

Air India confirmed that 241 people — all but one person on the plane — were killed, and that one person, a British citizen, had survived.

A video clip circulating on Indian news outlets shows a man with injuries on his face and blood on his white shirt limping toward an ambulance, saying he came from "inside" the plane. The man was later identified by his brother as Viswash Kumar Ramesh.

"He got off the plane and he video-called my dad and said, 'Our plane crashed — I have no idea how I got outside, or how I survived,' the brother, Nayan Ramesh, said in an interview.

Viswash Kumar Ramesh had been traveling on the plane with another brother, Ajay Ramesh. "He was like, 'I can't see my brother — I can't see any other passengers,'" Nayan Ramesh said, quoting his brother on the video call. "I don't know how I am alive," Nayan Ramesh said his brother added.

The jet, a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner bound for London Gatwick Airport, was carrying 230 passengers and 12 crew members when it crashed at 1:38 p.m. local time, just about a mile southwest of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, in the city of Ahmedabad.

A senior police official in Ahmedabad said 269 bodies had been brought to the main hospital. The official, Vishakha Dabral, cautioned that the exact toll might change after DNA testing.

Rescue personnel at the crash site, as well as doctors and security officials, said that as many as three dozen people caught in the path of the crashing plane might have been killed.

Officials at the site said the jet appeared to have skidded along the ground, damaging buildings, before it burst into flames. At least five students at B.J. Medical College were killed, according to Minakshi Parikh, the dean of college.

Continued on Page A8



AMIT DAVE/REUTERS

The tail of an Air India passenger jet on a school building after it crashed shortly after takeoff on Thursday in Ahmedabad, India.

Tehran Breaks Nuclear Rules, Watchdog Says

By STEVEN ERLANGER

PRAGUE — The International Atomic Energy Agency declared on Thursday that Iran was not complying with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations, the first time the U.N. watchdog has passed a resolution against the country in 20 years.

The long-anticipated censure vote by the agency's board of governors in Vienna came at a time of high tension over Tehran's nuclear program, with American and European officials saying they believe that Israel may be preparing an imminent military strike against Iran.

Iran condemned the vote, calling it political in a joint statement from its foreign ministry and national atomic energy agency. The resolution "completely called into question the credibility and prestige" of the nuclear watchdog, they said.

The statement added that Iran will "launch a new enrichment center in a secure location and replace the first-generation machines" at another site with more modern equipment.

The agency's resolution was put forward by the United States, Britain, France and Germany and passed easily, with 19 votes of the 35-nation board. Russia, China and Burkina Faso voted against, and 11 other countries abstained, while two did not vote.

The agency also said Iran consistently failed to provide information about undeclared nuclear material and activities at multiple locations.

Iran had reacted angrily to the prospect of the vote and threatened to leave the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which came into force in 1970. Iran is a signatory but has not ratified a section that would allow inspectors to search areas of the country where they suspect nuclear activity. But the vote was also seen as part of the diplomacy around the negotiations on Iran's nuclear program between Washington and Tehran.

Iran's foreign minister, Abbas Araghchi, said on Wednesday that a move to censure the country would "compel Iran to react

As Protests Flare, Mexican Flag Adds to Tension

By SHAWN HUBLER
and ORLANDO MAYORQUÍN

LOS ANGELES — As images of protests in Southern California have flooded television and social media in recent days, a key question has emerged: Why are so many protesters carrying Mexican flags at an American political protest?

The sea of red, white and green Mexican flags at anti-deportation protests in Los Angeles has been seized upon by conservatives who argue that the demonstrations are inherently un-American, causing some protesters to consider leaving them at home.

Photos of masked provocateurs waving Mexican flags atop burn-

In Los Angeles, Proud Emblem for Some Is Fodder for G.O.P.

ing Waymo taxis spread instantly across conservative social media over the weekend. Republicans pointed to them as a prime example of why President Trump called in the National Guard and how immigration had gone too far in California.

"Look at all the foreign flags," Stephen Miller, the deputy White House chief of staff and the architect of Mr. Trump's domestic agenda, said Sunday on X. "Los

Angeles is occupied territory."

To many Americans, including those on the left, it might seem a bad strategy to fight deportations of undocumented immigrants by waving the flag of another country.

But protesters said this week that they see the Mexican flag as a symbol of defiance against Mr. Trump's immigration policies or of solidarity with other Mexican Americans. The flag has become so prevalent in recent decades that it is a part of the Southern California landscape, adorning pickup trucks and flapping from bridges. Few mass gatherings occur in the region without a Mexican flag or two, from weekend soc-

Continued on Page A11



OFFICE OF SENATOR ALEX PADILLA OF CALIFORNIA

Lawmaker Is Handcuffed

Senator Alex Padilla interrupted a news conference by the Homeland Security secretary. Page A11.

Arriving for Court Check-Ins, Ensnared by ICE

By LUIS FERRÉ-SADURNÍ

Inside an immigration courthouse in the heart of Lower Manhattan, federal agents in T-shirts and caps cover their faces with masks as they discreetly attend routine hearings filled with immi-

Overcrowded Cells and Masked Agents

bands are separated from wives, and parents from children.

place raids have inflamed tensions and led to demonstrations. In New York, the courthouse arrests have emerged as a defining flashpoint.

In June, hundreds came and went at one federal building — for asylum hearings, citizenship applications and mandated check-

Trump's Clash With California Halts E.V. Plan

By LAUREL ROSENHALL
and LISA FRIEDMAN

President Trump signed joint resolutions of Congress on Thursday that block California's effort to phase out gasoline-powered vehicles, his latest attempt to reduce the power of the nation's most populous state.

The Republican-led Congress passed the resolutions in May to reverse the Biden administration's approval of California's electric vehicle efforts. When signed by the president, joint resolutions revoking federal rules carry the force of law and are not subject to judicial review.

Even so, the move drew an immediate legal challenge from California, as well as an executive order from Gov. Gavin Newsom directing state officials to find another path that would move the state's drivers toward electric vehicles and encourage companies to make them.

Mr. Trump signed the resolutions while he was battling California on several fronts, most notably in a dispute over immigration enforcement, in which the president has sent National Guard and Marine troops to Southern California in an extraordinary use of military force.

On Thursday, Mr. Trump took aim at California's longstanding authority under the federal Clean Air Act of 1970 to set pollution

Continued on Page A16

More on the White House

VACCINES The health secretary names eight to an expert panel



SHURAN HUANG FOR THE NEW-YORK TIMES

Zohran Mamdani is trying to achieve a New York City first.

Race for Mayor Thrusts Muslim Onto Tightrope

By JEFFERY C. MAYS

After a day partially spent celebrating Eid al-Adha with Muslims across the city, Zohran Mamdani sat inside a West Village church last Friday for a friendly town hall on confronting corporate greed.

Roughly 10 minutes in, a protester loudly disrupted the event. When he was done, a second protester jumped in. Both took offense at Mr. Mamdani's position on the Israel-Gaza war; his characterization of Israel's actions as a genocide has become a wedge issue in the Democratic primary for mayor of New York City.

But the protesters complained that Mr. Mamdani had not gone far enough. They said he was too soft on Israel, objecting to his stance that Israel had a right to exist as a nation. Mr. Mamdani, they said, had strayed from his Muslim roots.

The candidate took immediate offense.

"To call into question how I con-

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

MAY 21 2025

DOW JONES | News Corp WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025 ~ VOL. CCLXXXV NO. 118 WSJ.com ★★ \$5.00

DJIA 42677.24 ▼ 114.83 0.27% NASDAQ 19142.71 ▼ 0.4% STOXX 600 554.02 ▲ 0.7% 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 2/32, yield 4.479% OIL \$62.56 ▼ \$0.13 GOLD \$3,280.30 ▲ \$51.40 EURO \$1.1284 YEN 144.51

What's News

Business & Finance

- ◆ **Google said it was** overhauling its search engine to compete more directly with artificial-intelligence chatbots that threaten its core business. **A1**
- ◆ **Warby Parker is** collaborating with Google to develop AI-powered glasses. **B3**
- ◆ **Losses in Big Tech** weighed on major U.S. stock indexes, helping to depress both the S&P 500 and Nasdaq by 0.4% and the Dow by 0.3%. **B1**
- ◆ **Home Depot said it** intended to keep its prices steady and is working with suppliers to do the same despite tariff-imposed costs. **B1**
- ◆ **Levi Strauss said it** would sell Dockers to Authentic Brands for \$311 million as the company continues to take steps to center its image on its namesake brand. **B3**
- ◆ **Tesla finance chief** Vaibhav Taneja received a pay package of \$139 million last year, the most reportedly paid to a CFO since modern disclosure began. **B4**
- ◆ **Honda plans to reduce** its investment in electric vehicles by more than \$20 billion in the coming years as EV demand growth slows. **B3**
- ◆ **Vodafone plans** about \$2.3 billion in share buybacks and forecast a return to top-line growth in Germany, its biggest market. **B4**
- ◆ **The Dutch government** trimmed its stake in ABN Amro, following the example of European peers that are selling holdings in banks they supported during the financial crisis. **B11**
- ◆ **Palo Alto Networks** logged higher revenue for the second straight quarter, though profit slipped as expenses increased. **B5**

World-Wide

- ◆ **Trump warned** Republican dissenters that they would pay a steep political price if they impeded his multitricillion-dollar tax-and-spending agenda that party leaders want to pass quickly through the House. **A1, A4**
- ◆ **The president named** Space Force Gen. Michael Guetlein to oversee the development of a "Golden Dome" antimissile shield to protect the U.S. **A5**
- ◆ **Secretary of State Rubio** warned that Syria potentially was weeks away from a return to civil war, something the U.S. was seeking to avert when it said last week it would lift sanctions on Damascus. **A7**
- ◆ **A jail maintenance** worker was arrested for allegedly helping 10 inmates escape from a New Orleans corrections facility last week. **A3**
- ◆ **Senate Democrats** pressed Trump's nominee to run the IRS over his promotion of tribal tax credits and acceptance of campaign donations from people tied to those claims. **A5**
- ◆ **Caracas released** an imprisoned U.S. Air Force veteran, a move the government hopes could encourage Washington to allow West-

For Kids' Day, First Lady Is the Adult in the Room



YOUNG AIDES: First lady Melania Trump hosted staffers' children at the White House on Tuesday, helping them with crafts.

Europe's Firms Fall Far Behind In the Race to Create Big Tech

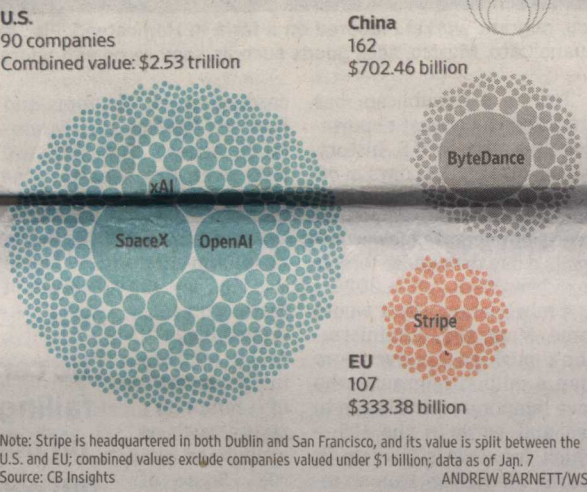
Lack of innovation holds economies back, weighing on Continent's future

BY TOM FAIRLESS AND DAVID LUHNOW

BERLIN—The world's technological revolution is leaving Europe behind. Europe lacks any home-grown alternatives to the likes of Google, Amazon or Meta. Apple's market value is bigger than the entire German stock market. The continent's inability to create more big technology firms is seen as one of its biggest challenges and is a major reason why its economies are stagnating. The issue is

even more urgent with the prospect of higher tariffs threatening to further curb economic growth. Investors and entrepreneurs say obstacles to tech growth are deeply entrenched: a timid and risk-averse business culture, strict labor laws, suffocating regulations, a smaller pool of venture capital and lackluster government and demographic growth. Thomas Odenwald, a German tech entrepreneur, left Silicon Valley in January of last year to join Aleph Alpha, a Heidelberg, Germany-based startup that aimed to go head-to-head with artificial intelligence leader OpenAI. Odenwald had spent nearly three decades working in California. Please turn to page A8

Privately held technology companies valued over \$1 billion, by select country/region



Google Takes Aim at AI Rivals on Search

BY KATHERINE BLUNT

Google is overhauling its iconic search engine to compete more directly with a wave of artificial-intelligence chatbots that threaten its core business. The company has started rolling out on its search page what it calls "AI Mode," which answers search queries in a

chatbot-style conversation without the standard list of blue links. The option, which Google announced at its developers conference on Tuesday, is being added as a tab within search for users in the U.S. The change marks Google's most ambitious effort to confront the AI upstarts that threaten its flagship search

product and largest source of revenue. "It's a total reimagining of search with more-advanced reasoning," said Sundar Pichai, chief executive of Google parent Alphabet. "We are now entering a new phase of the AI platform shift where decades of research are now becoming reality." Many major tech companies are grappling with the

prospect that generative artificial intelligence could disrupt their longstanding dominance, and face pressure from Wall Street to embrace AI. AI chatbots are fundamentally changing the way users search for information. In re-

Please turn to page A2

Migrants Stay on Job Despite Crackdown

BY PAUL KIERNAN

WASHINGTON—Presi-

INSIDE



U.S. NEWS Covid vaccines face



PERSONAL JOURNAL Cannes was always

Netanyahu Confronts Pressure From Allies To End War in Gaza

BY DOV LIEBER

TEL AVIV—Mounting pressure from Israel's allies including the U.S. to wrap up

President Tells GOP Dissenters To Drop Objections

Trump signals waning patience with opposition over Medicaid, SALT cap

BY OLIVIA BEAVERS AND SIOBHAN HUGHES

WASHINGTON—President Trump turned the screws on holdout Republicans, warning they would pay a steep political price if they stood in the way of the multitricillion-dollar tax and spending agenda that party leaders want to pass quickly through the narrowly divided chamber.

In a closed-door meeting Tuesday with the House GOP conference, the president urged fiscal conservatives to give up efforts to expand Medicaid cuts and a bloc of moderates to drop their drive for further blue-state tax relief, pushing them to unite around his "one big beautiful" budget bill, according to people familiar with his comments.

"Don't f— around with Medicaid," Trump said, according to attendees.

Trump's arm-twisting came at a high-stakes moment: House Speaker Mike Johnson (R., La.) has said he wants to vote on the package as soon as Wednesday and no later than the coming Memorial Day weekend. But holdout lawmakers said sticking points remained and could force changes to the bill or delays in voting despite Trump's exhortations.

The measure funds a series of promises Trump, a Republican, made on the campaign trail. It would extend his 2017 tax cuts and make new ones like no taxes on tips, as well as boost border spending and repeal climate tax credits. He warned that taxes would rise for many U.S. households if Congress fails to extend the provisions from his first term and that Republicans who opposed the bill could face primary challenges.

"What Republican would vote for that? Because they wouldn't be a Republican much longer. They would be knocked out so fast," Trump said before the meeting, arguing the party is united—except for "one or two grandstanders." He took aim at one House Republican opposed to the bill, saying Rep. Please turn to page A4

- ◆ **Trump tax bill divides the** GOP..... **A4**
- ◆ **S&P 500 snaps six-day** winning streak..... **B1**



Dr. Brittnei Boyd – see page A-4



Mara Brock Akil – see page D-1

Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins Hires Police Chief William 'Bill' Scott as New Police Chief and Head of Emergency Services

BY DANNY J. BAKEWELL, JR.
Executive Editor

San Francisco Police Chief and former Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief William "Bill" Scott is coming home. Metro CEO Stephanie Wiggins announced that Scott is the agency's new Police Chief and head of Emergency Services.

Sworn in as Chief of Police for the City of San Francisco on January 23, 2017, by Mayor Ed Lee, Scott brought to the Bay Area 27 years of experience from the Los Angeles Police Department, where he rose to the rank of Deputy Chief.

From his first day in San Francisco, Chief Scott was guided by a clear and powerful vision: to

implement meaningful, lasting reform rooted in 21st Century Policing. His focus throughout his time as Deputy Chief here in Los Angeles as well as in San Francisco as chief has been centered on accountability, transparency, and trust.

Under Scott's leadership, the San Francisco Police Department became a national model for reform. What began as 272 recommendations from the Obama-era U.S. Department of Justice evolved into a blueprint for transformation.

In 2021 as the first term of the Donald Trump administration ended federal oversight in 2017, Chief Scott refused to let the work go unfinished and partnered with the Califor-



Chief William "Bill" Scott

PETER THOSHINSKY

nia Department of Justice to ensure that this work continued.

On April 1, 2024, the SFPD submitted its final responses to the DOJ reform recommendations. This marked an important step in building a department more accountable to the communities it serves.

Chief Scott's tenure was defined not just by bold vision, but by steady leadership through some of the most difficult times in recent history. He guided the department through the global COVID-19 pandemic and the national reckoning on policing following the murder of George Floyd. Through it all, he remained focused on both public safety and equity—particularly in the communities most impacted by

violence and systemic inequality.

Thanks to his leadership, San Francisco's violent crime rates remain significantly below those of other major U.S. cities, while clearance rates for violent crimes such as homicide far exceed the national average. He also embraced innovation and new strategies to tackle auto burglaries.

Over the past several years, METRO under the guidance METRO President Stephanie Wiggins, has worked to address the many challenges of managing the nation's second largest public transportation authority. While rider confidence has drastically improved over the past sev-

{See CHIEF WILLIAM "BILL" SCOTT A-11}

The DEI Deception: White Women Benefit, Black Americans Blamed

BY STACY M. BROWN
Black Press USA Senior
National Correspondent

While President Donald Trump and his allies at the Heritage Foundation work to gut diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs across America, a dangerous narrative continues to spread—that DEI is some handout to Black Americans.

But the truth, backed by decades of data and recent studies, reveals a different picture entirely: the primary beneficiaries of DEI

have not been Black people, but white women.

Since returning to the White House, Trump has waged a relentless war on what his administration calls "woke" policies. His rhetoric has stoked resentment against DEI, falsely painting it as favoritism for Black Americans. Yet, according to experts and multiple studies, white women have long been the ones gaining the most from these very initiatives.

Actually, everyone but Black folks benefit [from DEI]," Texas Congress-

woman Jasmine Crockett said in an earlier published interview. "We were always the intended target to benefit, but the way that most policies are written, people learned how to game the system."

Reecie Colbert, a political commentator, told the Root that this false narrative has been pushed strategically.

"The notion that Black people are the primary beneficiaries of DEI, despite evidence to the contrary,

{See THE DEI DECEPTION on A-11}



JACOB WACKERHAUSEN

Holding hands, community support or family in nature for bonding or playing in a park together.

Japanese American Museum Board
Condemns Trump's Attacks on
Immigration, Civil Rights and DEI

Celebrate the Power of Moms at Mother's Day Music Festival in South L.A.

BY LILA BROWN
Contributing Writer

City of Los Angeles proudly presents the Mother's

culture, and community come together for an unfor-

This special event, themed "A Gift to Moth-